

House Resolution 1305

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63rd, Smyre of the 132nd, Dukes of the 150th, Abdul-Salaam of the 74th, Williams of the 89th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and memory of Mrs. Mary A. Moss Young Cummings; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
4 with the passing of Mrs. Mary A. Moss Young Cummings; and

5 WHEREAS, Mrs. Young Cummings was born on March 3, 1943, in Fitzgerald, Georgia, the
6 beloved 13th child of 16 to Ida and Matthew Moss; and

7 WHEREAS, a Monitor High School graduate, Mrs. Young Cummings earned a bachelor's
8 degree with honors from Savannah State University and a law degree from Howard Law
9 School; and

10 WHEREAS, active in the Civil Rights movement, she was arrested during the early sixties
11 while protesting the segregation of lunch counters, restaurants, and theaters; founded a youth
12 chapter of the NAACP in Savannah; worked in Civil Rights campaigns in Georgia,
13 Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida; and participated in the March on Washington in 1963 and
14 the Poor People's Campaign in 1968; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. Young Cummings was very active in Maynard Jackson's campaign to
16 represent Georgia in the U.S. Senate in 1968, C.B. King's campaign for Governor of Georgia
17 in 1970, Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm's campaign for President in 1972, Jesse Jackson's
18 campaigns for President in 1984 and 1988, and Andrew Young's campaign for Governor of
19 Georgia in 1990; and

20 WHEREAS, she was the first female African American and second African American to
21 practice law in Albany, Georgia; and

22 WHEREAS, Mrs. Young Cummings's legal action against the City of Albany resulted in the
23 creation of wards for voting purposes, which led to her election to the city commission and
24 the historic 1976 election of the first two African American city commissioners; and

25 WHEREAS, after serving on the Albany City Commission for eight years, she was elected
26 to the Georgia General Assembly, where she served for ten years and was elected to chair
27 the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials; and

28 WHEREAS, Mrs. Young Cummings joined the Brooks Litigation as a co-plaintiff in the
29 historic 1988 case that has produced more African American judges in Georgia than any
30 other state in the United States; and

31 WHEREAS, she was known as one of the Four Horsemen when she joined Cynthia
32 McKinney, John White, and Tyrone Brooks in sponsoring the Max Black Reapportionment
33 Plan of 1991 which is responsible for Georgia having more African American elected
34 officials than any other state in the United States; and

35 WHEREAS, her dedication and commitment to the principles of equality and justice were
36 recognized with numerous awards, including the Albany NAACP Freedom Award, the
37 Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Drum Major for Justice Award, the Outstanding
38 Black Georgian in Politics Award from the Committee on the Life and History of
39 Outstanding Black Georgians, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Community Service Award, and
40 the President's Award from the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials in October
41 2005, during its Fall conference at Albany State University in Albany, Georgia; and

42 WHEREAS, a woman of deep and abiding faith, Mrs. Young Cummings was called to the
43 ministry in the early nineties and was ordained in 1994, serving on the pastoral staff of New
44 Dimension Christian Church for many years; and

45 WHEREAS, Mrs. Young Cummings was blessed with the love of two children, Demetris and
46 April, and five delightful grandchildren, Essence, Maya, Nubia, Kenya, and Erica; and

47 WHEREAS, Mrs. Young Cummings will long be remembered for her love of family and
48 friendship, and this loyal mother, sister, grandmother, activist, and friend will be missed by
49 all who had the great fortune of knowing her.

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
51 the members of this body honor the life and memory of Mrs. Mary A. Moss Young
52 Cummings and express their deepest and most sincere regret at her passing.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
54 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mrs. Mary A.
55 Moss Young Cummings.